

September, 1959



THE NATIONAL Voter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE U. S.

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CONGRESSIONAL ROUNDUP

September 7—Congress finally agreed to labor reform legislation containing provisions for more union democracy, financial reporting, and anti-corruption; also amended Taft-Hartley Act on secondary boycott and organizational picketing.

Failed for seventh time to override a veto when the housing bill described below was returned by the President.

September 2—Congress lingered on in Washington through a hot July and August, with some pressing issues on which the Democratic majority is at odds with the Republican Administration still unresolved as September wears on. All legislation left pending will be subject to action during the second term of the 86th Congress when it meets again in January 1960. Controversy over the labor-management reform act slowed final action on other legislation, including the Mutual Security Appropriation and the extension of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act (P.L. 480).

The battle of the balanced fiscal 1960 budget, initiated by the President in his three messages to Congress last January, stood in the wings all year, ready to pop out and be thrashed through again whenever a bill authorizing future spending or an appropriation was called up. The congressional leadership early decided to make even greater savings than the President had proposed, but to do it by rearranging the items in the budget more to their own liking. This theme marked much of the debate, and led to Senate Majority Leader Johnson's policy of trying to "veto-proof" bills by keeping them well

within the spending limits it seemed likely the President would agree to. But Congress disregarded the President's request to increase revenues through higher postal rates, higher aviation gasoline taxes, a new tax on jet fuel, and the closing of loopholes in depletion allowances and taxation of cooperatives.

Not one of the 144 vetoes by President Eisenhower since he took office has been overridden by Congress. The latest measure on which Congress has attempted to override his veto (the attempt failed by one vote in the House) is the Public Works Appropriation, which would have allowed 83 new starts, 67 of them not properly budgeted according to the President's message. He had asked last January that no new starts be made in fiscal 1960.

The biggest increase in the President's requests was made in funds for medical research; next, in funds for military reserve and National Guard forces.

Since both the Congress and the Administration were busy all session "building the record" for next year's presidential and congressional elec-

tions, more than a trace of politics on the part of both can be detected in the outcome of most of the issues which arose during the term. Listed below are some of the decisions made.

MUTUAL SECURITY: Authorizing legislation shifted slightly to economic assistance the program's former emphasis on military aid. The Act 1) provided for inclusion of military assistance appropriations in the Defense Department's budget in fiscal 1961 and 1962; 2) created a new office of Inspector General and Comptroller in the State Department to take major responsibility for audits and financial control of the program; 3) directed the President to submit a detailed plan for progressive reduction of all bilateral grant programs in fiscal 1961 requests; 4) increased from \$500 million to \$1 billion the authority of the Investment Guaranty Fund and limited the guarantees to projects in underdeveloped countries; 5) provided that foreign currencies derived from repayment of loans in excess of the needs of the Fulbright educational exchange program might be sold to other U.S. agencies for payment of their obligations abroad; 6) required that foreign currency repayments to be credited to the Development Loan Fund be specified in appropriation acts; 7) required annual studies of the role of private enterprise in foreign policy, and of the balance of trade, and provided that the State Department and other agencies study methods to strengthen the economies of free nations, with the proviso that the President might suspend aid to any country that he determined had nationalized or expropriated property of U.S. citizens if he

Two members of the national Board appeared before congressional committees in August to support measures on behalf of the League. Mrs. John D. Briscoe testified August 21 before the Senate Appropriations Committee in support of the Mutual Security economic aid programs. Mrs. Luigi Petruccio was present at the first five hearings held by the House District of Columbia Committee, but was not called, and finally filed with the Committee her statement in support of D.C. home rule. Copies of statements are available at 5 cents each.

was not satisfied with the offending government's corrective actions under international law; 8) required the President to make public all information on the Mutual Security Program not incompatible with the national security.

The Mutual Security Appropriation, passed by the House July 29, was still in the Senate Appropriations Committee as of September 2.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND and WORLD BANK: Increased by 100 percent the U.S. subscription to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank), in the form of a guarantee, and by 50 percent the subscription to the International Monetary Fund.

INTER-AMERICAN BANK: Provided for U.S. membership in the proposed \$1 billion Inter-American Development Bank.

INTERNATIONAL WHEAT PACT: Senate agreed to ratification of a 3-year extension of the International Wheat Agreement, under which participating nations buy or sell assigned quantities of wheat within a set price range. Nine exporting countries and 29 importing nations plus the Vatican City participate in the pact. About 36 percent of the world trade in wheat is expected to move under the agreement. Britain, the largest wheat importer, signed the agreement for the first time.

INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT: Senate agreed to ratification of a new 5-year International Sugar Agreement, under which the United States would participate with nine other sugar importing countries and 25 exporting countries. The agreement is designed to stabilize sugar prices. All suppliers of sugar to the United States participate in the pact.

HAWAII: Hawaii was admitted to the Union as the 50th state.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL: House passed H.R. 3610 increasing to \$100 million a year federal money available for grants for construction of community sewage plants. Senate Public Works Committee reduced this amount to \$80 million during fiscal 1960.

RESOURCES AND CONSER-

VATION ACT of 1960, S. 2549, was introduced by Sen. Murray (D., Mont.) and 29 other Senators August 20. The bill declares it to be the policy of the federal government to create conditions for conserving, developing, and utilizing our natural resources. It would direct the President to make a Resources and Conservation Report to Congress within 60 days after it convenes annually, and would create in the executive department a 3-member Council of Resources and Conservation Advisers. It would also create a Joint Congressional Committee on Resources and Conservation to study the report, study means of coordinating programs, and file a report as a guide to the legislative committees.

This bill and its companion, H.R. 8661 introduced by Rep. Metcalf (D., Mont.), are pending in the Senate and House Interior and Insular Affairs Committees and will be considered during the second term.

TVA FINANCING: The Tennessee Valley Authority was authorized to sell up to \$750 million worth of long-term bonds to pay for future expansion.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES SECURITY PROGRAM: Bills which would have re-extended the coverage of the Federal Employees Security Program to nonsensitive as well as sensitive positions were not reported in either the House or Senate.

U.N. Day a Month Away

Looking for inexpensive material to hand out for U.N. Day or U.N. Week? We recommend:

- *The U.N. — A Candid Appraisal.* Something new and different, and just what the title says. CCCMF publication. 35 cents.

- *Pocket Reference on the U.N.,* 1959 edition. Basic facts in a capsule. 25 for \$1.25.

- Other material and ideas listed in the U.N. Day memo from the League's national office to your local League President.

- A kit of free material from U. S. Committee for the United Nations, 816 Twenty-first Street, Washington 6, D. C. This Committee also sells a U.N. Cookbook, which features the League's national President and other women leaders on the back cover. \$1.50 a single copy, quantity prices on request.

D.C. HOME RULE: The Senate passed for the fifth time a bill which would grant self-government to the District of Columbia. The House District Committee began a protracted series of hearings on home rule bills late in July after a petition to bring such a bill directly to the floor had been filed. This first petition was criticized because it would have severely limited floor debate. Another petition providing more liberal debating rules is now open for signature and 96 Members have signed. The House has never voted on a District home rule measure.

EDUCATION: A bill (H.R. 22) to provide \$4.4 billion in federal aid over a 4-year period for school construction and teachers' salaries was reported by the House Education and Labor Committee early in June but was never cleared for House action by the Rules Committee. Hearings were also held in the Senate.

HOUSING: The President vetoed the first housing bill passed by Congress this term and the Senate sustained the veto. A second bill passed by both houses and sent to the President proposed, among other things, 1) 37,000 public-housing units; 2) \$650 million for the urban-renewal program; 3) \$8 billion in new FHA insurance authority; 4) \$250 million for low-interest loans to colleges for housing; 5) \$50 million for a new college-loan program to build classrooms and laboratories; 6) new FHA mortgage-insurance program for persons 62 years old and over; 7) \$25 million for purchase by the Federal National Mortgage Association of cooperative housing mortgages.

NATIONAL DEBT LIMIT: A \$2 billion increase in the national debt ceiling, from \$283 billion to \$285 billion, was authorized, and a one-year, temporary increase to \$295 billion was also granted.

CORPORATE and EXCISE TAXES: Corporation and certain mutual insurance company tax rates were continued until July 1, 1960 at 52 percent, as were excise rates on distilled spirits, beer, wine, cigarettes, passenger cars, and auto accessories. The tax on passenger transportation was reduced from 10 to 5 percent, effective July 1, 1960, and the 10 percent tax on local telephone service was repealed as of that date.



FROM THE

PRESIDENT'S DESK

"There is also the necessity to know what to do next." You may remember these words in connection with the article in the July VOTER "Better than None."

Now as the 86th session of Congress draws to a close each of us must be wondering what next for the League of Women Voters, for the individual member, for the citizen, on the vital question of Mutual Security.

Important as was the impact of your letters, your telegrams and even telephone calls to Congressmen this past summer, it is what we begin to do now that will help determine what happens to foreign aid in 1960 and 1961. For what finally comes out of the congressional wringer in this session probably won't please anybody. Compromises are being made at every stage, not in any one direction, but in various directions in different programs, so that the result is likely to be a hodgepodge. If that is the case this year, what will it be next time?

In the long hours of heated congressional debate, charges and countercharges were directed toward both the Democratic Congress and the Republican Administration, from both friends and foes of aid, so it has been more difficult than usual to get the story from newspaper headlines or radio or television newscasts. One of the charges, in fact, has been that citizens cannot get enough information about the way the program operates to make valid judgments.

While there were some voices raised in opposition to foreign aid in any shape or form, apparently most of the public now accepts the fact that assistance is necessary. However, this acceptance seems to be passive—even apathetic—so that the question of the "why" of economic aid remains as important as the "how."

These same questions of why and how, of ways and means, are the very ones your delegates to the 1959 Council raised and upon which they suggested we should specialize this year, and, hopefully, come to some agreement upon. But it is not nearly enough that we in the League think through and find answers. What matters more is how successful we

can be in working with our communities and their leaders in finding answers, and then in sharing the information with the general public so that all citizens can make the necessary decisions.

Many people feel that we are on the threshold of a new phase, that the time has come to move forward into a long-range, adequate, comprehensive program of development assistance commensurate with the needs and with our own stake in its success. To me this is of such vital importance that now is none too soon for 1960 understanding of economic foreign policy!

As you think about finding some of the answers, I know you are going to be helped immensely by our new pamphlet on foreign economic development, now almost ready for the printer. I wish I could share with you the enthusiasm that is going about the office these days as we see it developing. It is being written—as "New Perspectives" was—by a combination

Marguerite M. Wells

Miss Wells, third national President of the League of Women Voters (1934-1944), died on August 12, at the age of 87. The destiny of the League was in her hands as clouds of totalitarianism darkened and as we worked through most of the years of World War II. With her rare political acumen, sharp discernment of basic issues, and vision of a perfected government by and for people, she focused the League's resources and energy toward one critical task: strengthening, during the strain of war, the democracy which war threatened to destroy.

Impatient with trivialities which retard the political maturity of women, she was often far ahead on the road she charted. "Women are better fitted than they realize for participation in public affairs," she said. "What they lack they can learn, for what they lack is not essential." She thought of the League as necessary leaven in the body politic. Her leadership lent great power to the leaven.

of Board and staff. Some of the chapter headings will give you an idea of its scope: National Goals—Ours and Theirs; Obstacles to Development; Essential Elements for Economic Growth; Existing Programs; The Criticisms; Moving Toward a Sound Program; What is Required.

Based upon the concepts we have talked about as comprising "the world we want," it describes economic aid to the developing nations in terms of realities and requirements. Whether we continue to tiptoe timidly forward or move with a purposeful giant step will depend upon whether the makers of U.S. foreign policy—the Administration, the Congress, the American people—are able to come to agreement on goals, on ways, and on means for such a program.

Ruth S. Phillips

Government in Action

A unique experiment in political education will start October 13 in Syracuse, New York. The project, "Government in Action," is designed to help community leaders develop a greater interest in government within organizations directly concerned with public issues. The initial course, limited to 30 persons active in community affairs, will provide a program of study and observation of the public decision-making process in American government.

The one-year project is being developed by the Carrie Chapman Catt Memorial Fund with a grant from the Fund for Adult Education. Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs and University College, the adult education division, are supplying faculty and facilities.

The project committee is headed by Mrs. Harold D. Dyke, Treasurer of CCCMF and former national Vice President of the League of Women Voters. It includes Dr. Donald C. Blaisdell of the Department of Government, City College of New York; Mrs. Werner J. Blanchard, chairman of the committee which developed the project and former member of the League's national Board; Mrs. John G. Lee, President of CCCMF and former national President of the League.

Who's for Tennis?

There is the story of the man "visiting" with a group of native Vermonters who sat for an hour without speaking a word. Finally he asked, "Is it against the law to talk around here?" and one of the group replied, "No, but there's an understanding no one's to speak unless he is sure he can improve on the silence."

But silence is not always golden. At the recent Convention of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, the speaker, Dr. Robert H. Schacht of the University of Wisconsin, described the title of a magazine article, "Talk Can Save Your Marriage," as "an intriguing headline but a half-truth." He said, "Responsible communication is a requisite for a happy marriage, but inconsiderate, incessant, poorly-timed chatter can also endanger a marriage—or any relationship." He continued:

"Responsible, considerate, and informed talk can save your unit. But a mixture of prejudices, unsound opinions, half truths, and hasty judgments may drive away those more serious members who were attracted to the League by its enviable reputation."

Space permits us to carry less than one fourth of his address; complete text is available at 15 cents a copy from the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, 119 East Washington Avenue, Madison 3.

Dr. Schacht continued:

"I begin with two assumptions: 1) that you understand the basic framework, principles, and policies of the League and are willing to play the game by League rules; 2) that we really want to improve the quality of our unit discussions and the effectiveness of the decision-making process.

"Have more to say. Come better prepared. This is related to the original choice of Agenda items, to materials available—not just in print but available to members early enough and inexpensive enough. It is related to coverage of the subject in *THE NATIONAL VOTER* and in *Forward* (State League Bulletin) as well as in the mass media.

"Even more so, coming better prepared is related to motivation to do so. If we have achieved a warm social climate at the expense of a demand-

ing intellectual climate, few members will respond with sufficient self-discipline to do the suggested reading. Motivation to read is also related to the way in which the resource person performs her role. I like the figure of speech used in 'Tips on Carrying Out League Program' in which the ideal resource person is defined as a life-guard rescuing the discussion when it is floundering on a question of fact rather than a generous benefactor giving the group all that she knows.

"You can't say more when you talk unless you have something to contribute. Contributions of fact can come from general background reading. Contributions can also be valuable if they reflect one's basic value systems and opinions. However, a man's judgment is no better than his information. We cannot escape the moral obligation to be intelligent.

"There is another area of contribution no less important. This is the role of one who asks the right kind of questions.

"Listen to what others have to say. When someone else is talking, most of us are planning our own next comment instead of listening to what is being said. As a result, our discussions are more likely to resemble a golf game than a tennis match. In golf, each participant has his own ball to advance, waits his turn to advance it, and is somewhat unconcerned about the plays of others. In good discussion, as in tennis, there should be one ball and each participant should be keeping his eyes on it and taking turns in playing it.

Pamphlet Tier

- ★ *Little Drops of Water.* Water policies and planning in brief, attractive format. 5 cents.
- ★ *With Continued Support.* League support positions on foreign policy, the when and why. 10 cents.
- ★ *National Continuing Responsibilities.* League positions under which you could be called to act. 10 cents.
- ★ *Is Politics Your Job?* Citizen participation in government. Useful for anyone, everyone. 25 cents.
- ★ *Carrie Chapman Catt—The Power of an Idea.* Brief history of the woman suffrage campaign. CCCMF publication. 25 cents.

"Build on the previous comment; advance the common argument. Show that you are listening. It will tend to make the speaker more careful of what he is saying. It will also keep you from talking too much.

"Think before you say it. Before speaking, ask yourself if your contribution will advance the argument. If the faster talkers have already moved on to another point, and you believe your contribution would add to the discussion, ask if the group would return for a moment to the previous point. Thinking may tend to slow up discussion a bit, but it adds immeasurably to the ability to say something when you talk.

"Let's learn to speak in ways which minimize extrinsic conflict arising out of emotional barriers to agreement. These interfere with the orderly process of deliberation. Let's respect intrinsic conflict arising out of differences in reasoning, evidence, meaning, or values. This is the heart of good discussion. Avoiding or superficially resolving such differences inhibits individuality and destroys the creative capacity of the group and the good name of the League.

"I believe these three simple rules will go a long way to help each of us say more when we talk in our unit meetings and assure that the product of the discussion will increasingly measure up to the high standards of study and decision-making of the League of Women Voters. Following these rules will not take all the fun out of unit meetings either, but rather insure that your consensus will be sound and that you break for coffee and cookies with a feeling of real accomplishment and satisfaction."

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